

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5392
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
UTILISATION OF POSTAL NETWORK
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to utilise vast postal network in the country for providing value added services like micro finance, banking and information based services etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) The Department of Posts is providing various services other than postal services in collaboration with other Government and non Government agencies to optimally utilize the network. These services are broadly as below.

I. The Department has started a pilot to provide financial inclusion in rural areas under the scheme of Business Correspondent in collaboration with the State Bank of India.

II. A Pilot for extending disbursement of micro credit to self help groups has also been started in collaboration with the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development.

III. The Department has started Passenger Reservation Service in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways

IV. The Department is providing a platform to facilitate payment of various bills by the customers for telecommunication companies and other utility service providers.

V. The Department is distributing financial instruments like Mutual Funds etc on behalf of financial institutions like UTI, SBI, Franklin Templeton, Reliance Mutual Funds etc. The Department is also distributing the Non Fife products of Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.

VI. The Department provides the facility of receiving remittances from 205 countries through the International Money Transfer Service.

VII. The disbursement of wages to the beneficiaries of the NREG Act 2005 is done through the post offices in some states.

VIII. The payment of Old Age Pension under the National Social Assistance Programme is being undertaken by the Department of Posts in some states.